



# A n I ntroduction to Missouri Government, Citizenship & History

*How did you spend the third Wednesday of last October?*



# Celebrate Missouri !

If you didn't spend it celebrating Missouri, you missed an opportunity. But don't worry, you've got a lifetime to observe them . . . .

The third Wednesday of October of each year is known and designated as "Missouri Day" and is set apart as a day commemorative of Missouri history to be observed by the teachers and pupils of schools with the appropriate exercises. The people of the state of Missouri, and the educational, commercial, political, civic, religious and fraternal organizations of the state of Missouri are requested to devote some part of the day to the methodical consideration of the products of the mines, fields, and forests of the state and to the consideration of the achievements of the sons and daughters of Missouri in commerce, literature, statesmanship, science and art, and in other departments of activity in which the state has rendered service to mankind.—Section 9.040, RSMo.

If you have an event scheduled on Missouri Day next year, include an activity in tribute. No meetings on your calendar? It's a perfect excuse to gather some friends and be ***Missourians!***

# From the Speaker's Office

## ROD JETTON

Speaker, Missouri House of Representatives  
156<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

On behalf of the Missouri House of Representatives, I hope you will find the *1821 Manual* a helpful resource. As a history major in college, I enjoyed learning all about the state in which we live. This



book is full of interesting and helpful information about our state and government.

Throughout Missouri's history, many people with diverse backgrounds and experiences settled here and came together to make our state successful. It is important for every citizen, no matter how young or old, to become involved in the governmental process. The first step in participating is knowing how democracy works. The *1821 Manual* contains information on the history of Missouri, our three branches of government, the role and responsibilities of citizens, our state Capitol and the Hall of Famous Missourians.

The Missouri House of Representatives is in session from early January to mid-May. I hope you will have the opportunity to visit the Capitol during a legislative session and watch your government in action. If you are unable to come to Jefferson City, you can always listen to the House floor debate via the internet at [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)

I encourage you to take this opportunity to become active in our state government. You are the future leaders of Missouri.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Jetton". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent. The ink is dark and the background is white.

Rod Jetton



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Portions of this publication are excerpts from the following: *The Missouri State Capitol, A Collection of Historic Information about its Architectural Design*, published by the Missouri Senate in 1979; *The Legislative Bulletin*; "Missouri Facts & Figures," a brochure published by the Missouri Division of Tourism in 1993; *The Official Manual* (1989-90), a publication of Roy D. Blunt, Secretary of State; and *Missouriana: A Resource Guide*, published by a joint committee of the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri State Library (Rev. 1982).

# The Structure of Missouri Government

Missouri's state government is similar to the other 49 states in that it is divided into three principal branches: the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

The legislative branch has the responsibility of writing and passing our state laws. In Missouri, the legislature is bicameral, meaning that it is made up of two chambers—the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, these divisions are known as the General Assembly.

## **What are the three principle branches of state government in Missouri?**

Once the laws have been passed by the legislature, it is the duty of the executive branch to execute and administer them. As the chief executive of the state, the

Governor is the recognized leader of this branch. He is assisted by the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor and Attorney General, all elected officials. Various departments and enforcement boards, provided for in the constitution, are also divisions of the executive branch.

The third principal branch of Missouri government is the judicial. This branch is comprised of the state court system, and its major responsibility is to interpret the laws passed by the legislature and administered by the executive branch.

Having three distinct branches of government insures that no one group can dominate the government through a concentration of power.

The Missouri Constitution provides for this legal separation of powers in Article II, which reads:

*"The powers of government shall be divided into three distinct departments—the legislative, executive and judicial—each of which shall be confined to a separate magistracy, and no person, or collection of persons, charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments, shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except in the instances in this constitution expressly directed or permitted."*

Equal distribution of powers among state officials is a guarantee that the citizens of Missouri will be fairly represented in government.

# The Legislative Branch

The General Assembly meets once a year, beginning in January, for four and one-half months. It convenes in the Capitol to enact new laws and revise existing Missouri laws or statutes. When the session adjourns for the year, legislators return to their districts where they continue to serve as the political voice of their constituents.

The only other time the legislature meets is when the Governor or General Assembly calls for a special session. These sessions deal only with specific legislation for which they were called and cannot exceed 60 days in duration.

**When do the  
regular sessions  
of the  
General Assembly  
begin?**

**How long  
do they last?**

## THE SENATE

Missouri is divided into 34 senatorial districts on the basis of population, and each district elects one state senator. The senators are elected for four-year terms, with an overlapping arrangement which provides that half the terms expire every two years. No person may serve more than eight years in the Senate.

To be eligible for election as a state senator, a person must be at least 30 years old, a qualified voter in the state for three years, and a resident of his or her district for one year.

**The President Pro Tem** appoints all committee chairs, majority party committee members to all committees, and is elected by the membership.

**The Majority and Minority Floor Leaders** manage all floor legislative action on behalf of their parties. The Majority Floor Leader sets the schedule and order of business for the Senate.

## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Missouri House of Representatives is composed of one member from each of the state's 163 legislative districts. These districts are drawn according to population.

Members of the House are elected for two-year terms at regular elections held in even-numbered years. To run for state representative, a person must be at least 24 years old, a qualified voter

in the state for at least two years, and a resident in his or her district for at least one year. No person may serve more than eight years in the House of Representatives.

**The Speaker** is the presiding officer in the House. Her/His responsibilities include appointing committee chairs, establishing the number of members on each committee and appointing the majority party members of committees. She/He also assigns bills to committees and signs all official actions of the House.

**The Speaker Pro Tem** presides in the Speaker's absence. Both the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tem are elected at the opening of the first regular session of each General Assembly by the membership.

**The Majority and Minority Floor Leaders** manage floor actions on behalf of their parties. The Minority Floor Leader appoints minority party members to committees.

**The Party Whip** directs the support of party members for the party's programs and objectives.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

House and Senate members work in specialized, bipartisan legislative committees which consider the validity and need for a particular bill. Committee chairs are always appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The committees are set up according to the rules of each house and are established on the basis of subject matter.

When a committee receives a bill, it studies the measure carefully and then holds public hearings. It is during these hearings that the private citizen is given the opportunity to personally speak out for or against a particular bill. When the hearings are over, the committee goes into executive session to determine what shall be done with the bill. Decisions concerning the bills are always reached by a majority vote.

**At what stage of legislative committee work do private citizens have the opportunity to speak “for” or “against” legislation being considered?**

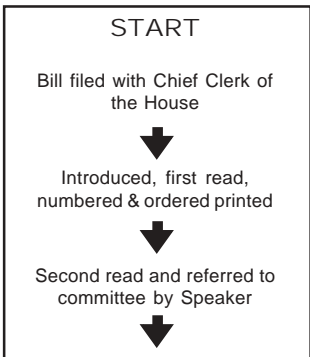
The citizen can, and should, attend these hearings if he or she has an interest in a bill, because once the bill has passed “out of committee” the citizen's only recourse is to contact his individual state senator or representative.

# The Making of the Law

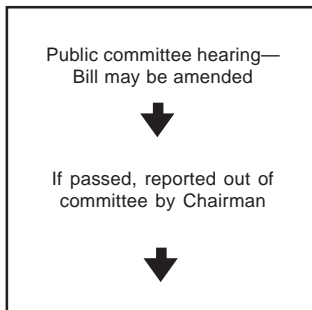
An amusing quote (attributed to Count Mirabeau while watching students observing the proceedings in the French Assembly) about lawmaking states, "Laws are like sausages. You should never see them made."

Although the Count was undoubtedly commenting on the personal styles of the assemblymen, lawmaking often is not smooth and neat. But the legislative process is essentially a well-defined exercise.

The **idea** for a piece of legislation may come from a private citizen, consumer or business group or the legislator himself. The **bill** may be drafted by the legislator or he/she may request the professional assistance of the legislative staff. A bill may originate in either chamber with the exception of appropriations bills which are always introduced in the House of Representatives. Since the process is the same in both branches of the Legislature, let's assume that our bill is introduced in the House of Representatives. After the sponsoring legislator has filed the bill with the Chief Clerk of the House, it must be **read on introduction** and ordered printed. This is its **first reading**. Once the bill has been printed, it is **second read** and referred to the Speaker of the House for assignment to one of the many committees. The first and second reading of bills might be considered a formality since the Legislature does not take action until the Speaker of the House has assigned the bills to committee.

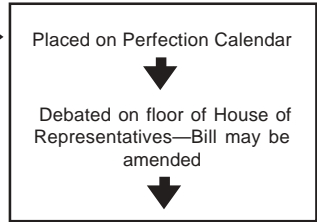


However, once the bill is assigned to committee, the process moves into high gear. A bill seldom comes out of committee exactly the way it was received. After the committee has a public hearing on the bill, it meets in executive session. During this session, amendments can be offered or the committee can completely rewrite the bill and offer a **House Committee Substitute**. After all the changes have been made, the committee votes on the bill. If a majority of those present vote to pass the bill out of committee, it is placed on the **perfection calendar**. The committee may also vote not to pass the bill, and it will **die in committee**.





*This illustration shows the flow of a bill originating in the House of Representatives. If the bill originated in the Senate, the example process would be reversed. Once passed into law, legislation may still be challenged in the courts.*

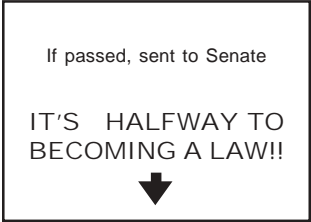
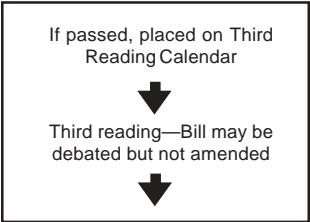


Once placed on the **perfection calendar**, the bill must wait its turn for debate. At this stage of the process, all House members get a chance to express their views on the bill. During debate, amendments may be offered and voted on or an entirely new bill, a **House Substitute**, can be offered.

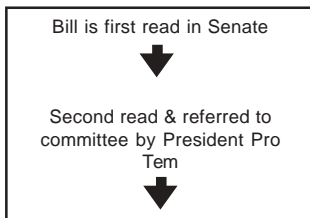
Each time a change is offered, the full House must vote on that change. After all debate has ended, the Speaker calls for a vote. If passed, the bill is referred to as **perfected**. (A simple majority of those present in the chamber is all that is required for passage.) It is then placed on the **third reading calendar**.

Once it reaches the top of the **third reading calendar**, the bill is again debated before the House; however, it cannot be amended. Representatives can only approve or reject the bill as it was passed during the perfection stage. Once all debate has ended, the Speaker calls for a roll call vote. To pass a bill on **third reading**, a constitutional majority is required. (At least 82 of the 163 members of the House of Representatives must vote “yes” to pass a bill on third reading.)

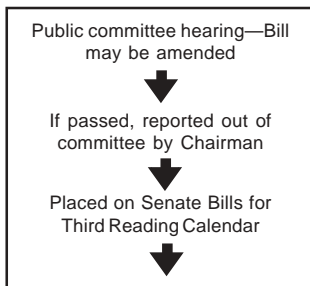
If passed by the House, the bill goes to the Senate where the process is repeated.



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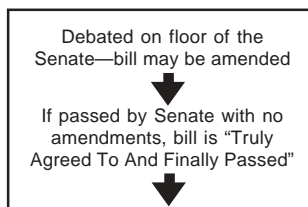


On its arrival in the Senate, the bill is **first read**. Then it is placed on the **second reading** calendar, read in the chamber and given to the President Pro Tem for assignment to committee.

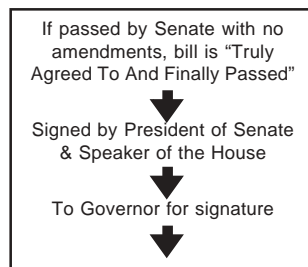


As in the House, the committee may change the bill or kill it in committee. If the bill is voted out of committee, it is placed on the Senate calendar under **House bills for third reading**. The perfection stage is eliminated in the Senate. However, when the bill is debated by the Senate on third reading, unlike third reading stage in the House, amendments may be offered and the bill may once again be changed. If any changes are made though, the bill as amended by the Senate, must go back to the House for its approval.

If the House rejects any or all of the changes made by the Senate, the bill will most likely end up in a **conference committee** composed of members of both the House and the Senate. If the conference committee reaches a compromise, its report must be adopted by both the House and the Senate before the bill is **Truly Agreed To And Finally Passed**.

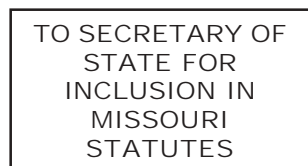


It is then signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and sent to the Governor.



If the Governor signs the bill, it becomes law 90 days after the legislative session ends. However, if it contains an emergency clause, the bill becomes effective the day it is signed by the Governor.

We hope this explanation gives you a better understanding of the legislative process.



# The Executive Branch

The executive branch consists of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer and State Auditor and sixteen departments. The state's business is conducted through the departments which in turn are divided into divisions, commissions and boards. With the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor appoints the directors of the departments and divisions and members of the commissions and boards. The sixteen departments which assist in executing and administering the laws of the state are: Office of Administration; Agriculture; Conservation; Corrections; Economic Development; Elementary and Secondary Education; Health and Senior Services; Higher Education; Insurance; Labor and Industrial Relations; Mental Health; Natural Resources; Public Safety; Revenue; Social Services; and Transportation. The Office of Administration functions as a central management agency for the coordination of planning, budgeting and personnel activities of the departments.

Another important aspect of the executive branch is that all six officers are elected individually and independently of one another, which means that the Governor has no basic control over the other five executive officials.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS

### Governor

According to state law, the governor must be at least 30 years of age, a U.S. citizen for the past 15 years, and a Missouri resident for the past 10 years. He or she has the power to both appoint and remove various agency heads and other officials. The governor regulates the spending of state money and has the power to reorganize agencies. He or she also has legislative powers like



the "veto" which, unless the legislature overrides it by a two-thirds majority vote, can prevent a bill from becoming a law. The governor has the ability to pardon people who have committed crimes, and he or she may call special sessions of the General Assembly. The governor also has the constitutional power of commander-in-chief of the state militia, which he may call out to enforce the laws of the state. No person may be elected to this office more than twice.

## **Lieutenant Governor**

The lieutenant governor is, by state law, the president of the Missouri Senate and has the same qualifications as the governor. As president, he or she has the power to preside over the Senate, recognize speakers, and conduct Senate business, though in recent years lieutenant governors have not presided over Senate proceedings on a regular basis. The lieutenant governor is only allowed to vote when there is a tie in the Senate or a tie in a joint vote of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

## **Secretary of State**

By state law, the secretary of state must be a resident of the state of Missouri for at least one year prior to being elected. The secretary of state's office is divided into three areas: Elections and Commissions, Business Activity, and Administrative Services. He or she is Missouri's chief election official, and as the keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, finalizes many official actions of the governor by affixing the state seal. The secretary is also the state's chief archivist, recordkeeper and microfilmer, as well as the responsible party for corporate, uniform commercial code, and securities matters.

**What six elected offices comprise the executive branch?**

## **Auditor**

The auditor, whose qualifications are the same as the governor's, makes sure that the officials and agencies of the executive branch are spending their money the way they are required to by state law. The auditor is also responsible for auditing the General Assembly and counties.

## **Treasurer**

The treasurer has the same residency requirements as the secretary of state. He or she handles the state funds. Money received by the state through taxes and other sources goes into the state treasury. The treasurer takes the money which is not needed to operate the state government in any one year and invests it. He or she also oversees the distribution of funds to state agencies and employees. Like the governor, no individual may be elected to this office more than two times.

## **Attorney General**

To be qualified to run for attorney general, a candidate must be an attorney and, after the election, must live in Jefferson City. He or she has the power to give non-binding legal opinions to the governor, the General Assembly, and other state officials. His or her other powers include representing the state of Missouri in court.

# The Judicial Branch

The third major branch of Missouri government is the judicial. The chief responsibility of the judicial branch is to interpret the laws of the state as passed by the legislature, and it also attempts to judiciously settle controversial issues. In so doing, it deals in two areas of law: criminal and civil.

Criminal cases are those in which there has been a violation of the law which causes an injury to the state or society. Persons found guilty in a criminal case may be punished by fine, imprisonment or execution.

Civil cases are those in which there has been a dispute between persons, often over minor disagreements in interpretation of the law. The person who loses a civil lawsuit is not subject to fine or imprisonment. However, the court may decide that the injured party should be paid a certain amount in damages.

Missouri courts are presided over by judges who are either elected to their posts or are chosen under the nonpartisan court plan. The nonpartisan plan is the method employed in filling judgeship vacancies in many Missouri courts.

The judicial branch of Missouri government can be divided into three levels: the circuit and associate circuit courts, the court of appeals, and the supreme court.

**What are the three levels of courts in the judicial branch?**

## THE CIRCUIT COURT

The court system concentrates all initial legal activity in the circuit court. Missouri has 46 judicial circuits, divided along county lines. Each circuit contains at least one circuit judge and at least one associate circuit judge for each county within the circuit.

Many judges of the circuit court are popularly elected, while judges in some circuits are selected under provisions of the nonpartisan court plan. Circuit judges serve terms of six years, while associate circuit judges serve four-year terms. These circuit courts handle original civil and criminal cases, as well as misdemeanors and felonies.

## THE COURT OF APPEALS

There are three courts of appeals in Missouri: St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield.

The courts of appeals hear cases from lower courts whose decisions have been appealed and which are not reserved exclusively for the Missouri Supreme Court. However, cases not within the exclusive jurisdiction may be transferred from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court when it is determined that a case involves an important constitutional issue that should be decided by the state's highest court.

Each district has at least three judges who serve 12-year terms and are selected under the nonpartisan court plan. A chief judge is elected for each district of the Court of Appeals by the judges in the districts, and serves for such time as the districts determine.

## **THE SUPREME COURT**

The Missouri Supreme Court is the highest court in the state and hears cases appealed from the courts of appeals or involving the death penalty, life imprisonment, a U.S. treaty or statute, or construction of the United States and Missouri constitutions. The Court may also order cases transferred to it from the Court of Appeals if the cases involve questions of general interest or importance, if the Court thinks the existing law should be reexamined or for other reasons provided by law.

In addition to these duties the Court is responsible for the supervision of all lower courts in the state. It is assisted in this task by the State Courts Administrator's Office.

Supreme Court judges are selected under Missouri's nonpartisan court plan. There are seven Supreme Court judges who serve 12-year terms. They select one of their number to be chief justice, usually for a period of two years.

The decisions of the court are in the form of written opinion prepared by a judge and adopted by a vote of the judges. The Court is normally divided into two divisions, though sometimes a case will be heard by all seven judges.

**Which court hears cases involving the  
death penalty, life imprisonment,  
U.S. treaties or statutes, or  
U.S. or Missouri constitutional construction?**

# Local Government

Much of the power to regulate internal affairs in Missouri is delegated to locally elected governing bodies, such as governments of counties, cities, townships and various kinds of districts. These local units have no reserved powers of their own, but only those which are granted to them by the Missouri Constitution and laws. The state sets up both the basic frameworks of government available to the local units and also the conditions governing local choice and implementation. The people in the local units fill in the details with appropriate actions and ordinances, being allowed varying degrees of discretion depending on the size of the population and other factors.

**How many counties are there in Missouri?**

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

There are 114 counties in Missouri, plus the City of St. Louis which, under the constitution, has county status. With the exception of the City of St. Louis, all 114 Missouri counties have some basic type of county government, although the structure and operation of county governments vary considerably.

Most county governments are directed by the presiding commissioner of the county commission and the other commissioners of the commission; all of them are elected by the people. The county commission serves as both the central executive and legislative body.

St. Louis County is governed by a county executive who is responsible for the operation of the departments of county government. A seven-member County Council functions as the legislative body of St. Louis County. The county executive is elected to a four-year term as are the members of the County Council.

Within each county there is a collection of separate elective officers performing various tasks. Most counties elect a prosecuting attorney, sheriff, coroner, assessor, and revenue collector who perform necessary law enforcement and fiscal management duties.

County governments are characterized by varying degrees of coordination and centralization. This is due in part to the fact that the General Assembly and the governor are themselves, technically, the primary legislative and executive organs of the state and its subdivisions.

# CITY GOVERNMENT

There are three main types of city government being used in Missouri today: the mayor-council form, the commission form and the council-manager form.

**City Councils  
are restricted to  
adopting “local laws”.  
What are these  
laws called?**

## **The Mayor-Council Form**

This is the form of city government which appears most frequently in Missouri. In this type of government there is a city council (or board of aldermen) composed of four or more members who are elected by the people, a mayor who is either elected

by the people or by the council from among its own members and several administrative officials who are elected by the people of the community or who are appointed by the mayor.

The duties of the council in the mayor-council form of city government are restricted to adopting the ordinances (local laws) for the city. Councilmen are usually elected from subdivisions of the city. These subdivisions are called wards.

The mayor acts as the chief executive of the mayor-council organization and is responsible for carrying out the ordinances made by the council.

## **The Commission Form**

In this form of city government one body, called the board of commissioners (or the city council in some places), performs both the legislative and the executive functions. The board of commissioners has the duty of passing the ordinances which govern the affairs of its city. Each commissioner then acts as a department head and carries out one particular group of ordinances. The commissioners may also appoint and oversee an official who will carry out the work, such as that which concerns streets, public utilities or parks. The commissioners in this form of government are elected by the people of the city.

## **The Council-Manager Form**

The council-manager form of government is comprised of a council, a mayor and a city manager. The council passes the city ordinances, and its members are elected from wards within the city. The duties of the mayor include presiding at council meetings; the mayor has little administrative power, however. Instead, the administrative power in the council-manager form of city government lies with the city's chief executive, known as the city manager. The city manager is a nonpartisan official hired by the city as an administrator. He is the person who is generally responsible for all city administration.



# Congressional Representatives

Missouri has eleven people in Washington, D.C., who represent the state in the United States Congress.

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government, and it works in conjunction with the country's executive and judicial branches to exercise the sovereign power of the people of the United States. Congress is divided into two distinct branches which are called the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). Its two-year sessions last from each odd-numbered year to the next odd-numbered year.

## UNITED STATES SENATORS

Missouri is like every state in that it is represented in Washington by two senators who are elected to six-year terms. These officials provide a smaller body of more experienced lawmakers to counterbalance the workings of the shorter term (two-year) House members. Senators must be at least 30 years old, have been citizens of the United States for at least nine years, and be residents of the state in which they are elected. The terms of one-third of the members of the Senate expire every two years.

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

Nine Missourians currently represent Missouri in the House of Representatives in Washington. The members of the House are elected to two-year terms from districts in the state which are drawn up according to population; thus, the more heavily populated states have more representatives and a state's representatives will increase or decrease in proportion to the state's population.

A member of the House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the United States for seven years, and a resident of the state in which he/she is elected.

Because members of the House are elected for shorter terms than senators, they are intended to be the true "voice of the people" in Congress. Their actions generally reflect the wishes of their constituents more directly than those of senators. Like the Senate, the House of Representatives must approve all legislation before it can go into effect. The House is presided over by the Speaker of the House, a member who is traditionally elected to his position by the majority party.

**How many  
people represent  
Missouri  
in the  
U.S. Congress?**

# The Citizen's Role

Although not everyone can be involved in politics to the extent of holding public office, there are a number of effective ways for citizens to make known their views. Opinions about our government may be transmitted to political leaders through traditional avenues established by custom, or through legally established means.

**There are two methods of placing an issue before the voters for consideration. One is legislative and one is grassroots.**

**What are the two methods?**

A group of voters may draft a proposed law and require that it be submitted to the people for passage through an "initiative," a process in which advocates collect signatures from registered voters on petitions. Occasionally, through a "referendum," the legislature submits a proposal to the people for approval or disapproval.

These legal actions, though provided for by law, occur infrequently. A frequently used means through which a voter may express his opinion is by writing a letter to his elected representative. Writing your representative is an effective way of making yourself heard on a subject. Members of the General Assembly and state officials pay close attention to their mail, particularly when a piece of controversial legislation is at hand. All of these devices have one thing in common—they depend upon the vote for their execution. Petitions request a vote in the legislature, initiative and referendum bring proposals to the people for a vote, and letters to legislators try to influence votes.

Looking over the structure of our government, this same fact emerges. Simple as it is, everything depends upon our use of the vote. It is the basic tool of democracy. If a few citizens don't use it, democracy falters; if no one uses it, there is no democracy.

## POLITICAL PARTIES

Political party organizations are important for many reasons. They provide manpower, organization and leadership to run campaigns, arouse voter interest, finance campaigns and encourage qualified people to seek office.

To meet those ends the political party operates on several levels.

At the local level is the city ward or county township committee—the heart of both major U.S. political parties. Here is where party workers are endorsed for political jobs and appointments. Vacancies are filled on the party committees, candidates are helped and intraparty election campaigns are held.

At the next level is the county central committee, composed of ward and township committeemen. Overall responsibility for the success of the party and its candidates in the general election is placed upon the county central committee.

Third step on the ladder is the congressional district committee. Electing members of the state committee and supporting the district congressional campaign are the two main functions of this group.

At the top of the state political party structure is the state central committee. The state committee's duties include editing the party's state platform, giving assistance in statewide elections and preparing and distributing material boosting party candidates who were nominated in the state primary election.

How do you go about assisting a political party? Simple. Phone the party headquarters and tell them you're ready to work. They'll tell you whom to contact and after that you're on your own. How much or how little you choose to do will determine how much influence you will have.

**What is the  
definitive "tool"  
in a democracy?**

## **HOW TO ADDRESS YOUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

When writing a letter to your elected officials there are several things to remember.

A good letter should give a complete but brief account of your complaint or request, eliminating unrelated information.

Include your full name, correct address, and a phone number both at work and at home. If an inquiry involves an agency that uses an identifying case or file number (example: Social Security number), it is important to include the number in order to locate records quickly.

Include the name of the agency and individual with whom you have dealt concerning the problem. Do not abbreviate, because someone else might not understand your abbreviations.

Correct, brief but complete, information means faster and more accurate assistance in your request for help.

To assist you in your correspondence, use the proper forms of address for elected officials listed on the following page.

<b>Addressee</b>	<b>Form of Address</b>	<b>Salutation</b>
U.S. President	The President The White House Washington, D.C.	Dear Mr. Mrs., Ms., or Miss President:
<b>U.S. Senator</b>	<b>The Honorable (name) United States Senate Washington, D.C.</b>	<b>Dear Senator (name):</b>
U.S. Representative	The Honorable (name) Unites States House of Representatives Washington, D.C.	Dear Representative (name):
<b>Governor</b>	<b>The Honorable (name) Governor of Missouri State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101</b>	<b>Dear Governor (name):</b>
Lieutenant Governor	The Honorable (name) Lieutenant Governor of Missouri State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101	Dear Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss
<b>Secretary of State</b>	<b>The Honorable (name) Secretary of State of Missouri Jefferson City, MO 65101</b>	<b>Dear Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss</b>
Attorney General	The Honorable (name) Attorney General of Missouri Supreme Court Building Jefferson City, MO 65101	Dear Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss
<b>State Auditor</b>	<b>The Honorable (name) Auditor of the State of Missouri</b>	<b>Dear Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss</b>
State Treasurer	The Honorable (name) Treasurer of the State of Missouri State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101	Dear Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss
<b>State Senator</b>	<b>The Honorable (name) The State Senate State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101</b>	<b>Dear Senator (name):</b>
State Representative	The Honorable (name) House of Representatives State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101	Dear Representative (name):

# Legislative Intern Program

The Legislative Intern Program is sponsored by the Missouri General Assembly.

The program selects the best students in related fields at Missouri institutions of higher education, and provides them an opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in the government process.

The program also offers each intern the opportunity to use his or her skills, gained through academic and other experiences, to provide vital staff support to members of the General Assembly.

In gaining knowledge and experience for him/herself, each intern provides a real service to the people of Missouri. Some interns spend one day each week at the Capitol, while full-time interns work five-day weeks. Individual schedules are arranged by each student with his/her legislator and school.

Between the intern, the legislator and his or her staff, a mutually beneficial learning experience is the result. Hard work and willingness to cooperate are the keys to a successful internship.

## The State Capitol

The building now serving as the seat of government in Missouri is the sixth Capitol. The Mansion House, Third and Vine Streets in St. Louis, served briefly in 1820 when the constitution was being prepared prior to Missouri's admission to the Union. The Missouri Hotel in St. Louis was the meeting place for state officials during 1820-21. A building was erected at St. Charles for the Capitol and was used until 1826 when Jefferson City was established as the permanent site for the State Capitol. A river site was considered to be of primary importance in the 1820's because most travel was by riverboat.

The fourth Capitol, the first at Jefferson City, was a two-story wood building built in the period of 1823-29 and destroyed by fire in 1837. Two large rooms on the first floor were created for the two branches of the legislature and the second floor was designated the living quarters for the governor. The building cost \$18,573.



A new Capitol was under construction when fire destroyed that wooden structure. The new building was completed in 1840 at a cost of \$350,000. It was enlarged in 1888 and was also destroyed by fire when a flash of lightning struck the dome on February 5, 1911. The 46th General Assembly was in session at the time of the fire and immediately introduced a bond proposal for \$3.5 million to rebuild. Missouri voters ratified the bond issue August 1, 1911, to allot \$3 million to erect the Capitol which now stands, in the same spot as its predecessor, high atop a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. \$300,000 was allotted to decorate the building and an additional \$200,000 to acquire more land.

The structure, covering nearly three acres, is a symmetrical building of the Roman renaissance style of architecture, surmounted by a dome of unusual beauty. It stands upon 285 concrete piers of varying sizes which extend to solid rock at depths from 20 to 50 feet. It is 437 feet long by 200 feet wide through the center. The exterior of the building is of Carthage (Missouri) limestone marble. The floors of all the corridors, the rotundas and the treads of the stairways are of the same material. There are 134 columns in the building—one-fourth of the stone used in the entire structure.

**How many capitols  
preceded the present  
State Capitol?**

**How many acres  
does the structure cover?**

As work progressed on the Capitol, it became evident in 1917 that more than the allotment for decorating would be generated from the property tax. The Attorney General ruled that the money could not be used for any other purpose and the Decoration Commission had a windfall of slightly more than \$1 million. For a period of nearly 12 years the commission engaged the outstanding artists and sculptors of the period to create the magnificent works that we enjoy today.

Estimates on replacement costs of the Capitol and art collection vary, but are many times the original costs. The building, excluding the art works, would cost between \$80 million and \$90 million. If the total cost is considered, the building and all art works, replacement value is estimated at more than \$105 million.

Missourians visiting the Capitol should be aware that the building is more than the state's seat of government—it is also one of the state's art museums. No other state in this section of the country is so rich in picturesque legend and colorful history, reflected joyously in the decoration of the Capitol.

The bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson commands the principal entrance to the Capitol. Jefferson, the third President of the United States (1801-1809) was author of the Declaration of Independence, architect, scholar and the man responsible for the Louisiana Purchase. Sculptor James Earle Frazer executed the dignified and powerful 13 feet tall statue which is considered to be one of the finest statues of Jefferson.

The most significant work of art added to the Capitol since the dedication of the completed building in 1924 is the Thomas Hart Benton mural in the House Lounge (third floor). The colorful magnificence of these depictions of moments in Missouri's history surrounds the viewer. Benton was commissioned to execute the murals in 1934 and completed the work in 1936. He was paid \$16,000, according to official records, for the work presently valued at \$5 to \$7 million.

The House Chamber, refurbished during the 1989 interim, is also on the third floor. In many respects this is the most attractive floor in the building. A mellow light from the cathedral glass lends a subdued effect in the central corridor. The House Chamber is 70 x 78 feet, is furnished in mahogany, and the rostrum is beautifully carved.

The Governor's rooms are on the north side of the second floor overlooking the river. The Governor's Reception Room is an oval chamber with four large paintings of noted Missourians by Gari Melcher. Missouri's most famous author, Mark Twain, is depicted in one of these.

The Signing of the Treaty and the Fountain of the Centaurs commemorates the signing of the Louisiana Purchase and is the centerpiece of one of the most beautiful areas of the Capitol grounds. A recent addition is the Veterans Memorial composed of a fountain, a reflection pool, and a walkway of engraved and polished monoliths representing each war in which Missourians fought.

# Hall of Famous Missourians

*The Hall of Famous Missourians is composed of a series of bronze busts of famous Missourians. Located in the third floor rotunda, the Hall instructs Capitol visitors on the outstanding contributions that Missourians have made to the world.*

**DAVID RICE ATCHISON** (1807-1886) has the singular honor of having served as U.S. President for one day when General Zachary Taylor refused to be inaugurated on March 4, 1849, because it was a Sunday. Born in Fayette County, Kentucky, he became the first senator from western Missouri and the youngest Missourian at that time to enter the U.S. Senate. He served 16 terms in this body as President Pro Tem. By right of succession, he also was U.S. Vice President from April 18, 1853, until December 4, 1854, by virtue of the death of Franklin Pierce's vice president, William R. King. He is buried in Plattsburg where a statue honors him in front of the Clinton County Courthouse.

**JOSEPHINE BAKER** (1906-1975) was an international star and human rights activist known for her sultry vocals and distinct improvisational dance style. Born in the slums of St. Louis, she discovered her ticket out of a life of poverty through song and dance. Because of her strong views against racial discrimination, she left this country for France to launch an entertainment career which spanned five decades. Deeply involved in the civil rights movement, she was instrumental in prompting nightclubs and theaters to integrate their audiences by her refusal to perform unless nondiscriminatory seating practices were followed. One of the highlights of her life was taking part in the 1963 Freedom March in Washington, D.C., and delivering a speech beside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial.

**TOM BASS** (1859-1934) is regarded as one of the world's greatest saddle horse trainers. Born into slavery in Boone County, he lived most of his life in Mexico, Missouri, where he trained horses for a number of notable individuals including Theodore Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Cody. Because his talent as a horseman was greatly admired, Bass was allowed to show in the same ring with white trainers when America was still a very segregated place in the decades following the Civil War. Tom Bass helped break the color barrier at the turn of this century while revolutionizing the saddle horse profession.

**THOMAS HART BENTON** (1889-1975) captured the spirit of small town and rural life in the Midwest through his painting. The Neosho-born artist is recognized as a leader of the American "regionalist" art movement of the 1930s. His historic murals adorn museums, libraries and capitols, one of which is located in the House Lounge of the Missouri Capitol. He was the grandnephew of Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

**SUSAN ELIZABETH BLOW** (1843-1916) established the first public kindergarten in the United States in 1873 and later trained teachers for the kindergarten classroom. Her work on behalf of childhood education in her native St. Louis and her affiliation with the National Education Association lifted her to national prominence.



*The project originated with the Missouri Capitol Society, Inc., a bipartisan organization involved in providing original works of art for the State Capitol. The work has been continued by House Speakers Bob F. Griffin, Steve Gaw, Jim Kreider, Catherine L. Hanaway and Rod Jetton.*

**GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY** (1893-1981) was one of the most famous American military figures of the 20th Century. He lived the first fifteen years of his life in Clark, Missouri, and then moved to Moberly. During World War II, he led the U.S. Army forces at the invasion of Normandy and by the war's end was field commander of the largest American force in history. His other accomplishments include being named administrator of Veteran's Affairs (1946-1948), Army Chief of Staff (1948-1949), first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Department of Defense (1949-1953), and first chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1950). Because of this five-star general's popularity with the enlisted men, he was given the nickname "The G.I. General".

**GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER** (1863-1943) revolutionized agricultural research and the southern economy with the development of more than 300 by-products from the peanut and sweet potato. The botanist, scientist and educator was born the son of slaves in Diamond Grove, Missouri. He pursued a career in science that led to national fame as the first director of the department of agriculture at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

**CHAMP CLARK** (1850-1921) was a Congressman from Missouri and a leading national political figure of his day. He was elected to Congress in 1893 and returned to Congress in 1897, where he served until his death in 1921. His parliamentary skills and the high regard of his colleagues, earned him election to the office of Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in 1911, a post he held throughout World War I. He is the only Missourian to have held this position.

**WALTER CRONKITE** (1916- ) has been named the "Most Trusted Man in America" for more than half a century. Beginning in WWII as a UP correspondent, Mr. Cronkite covered virtually every major news event throughout his more than 60 years in journalism. In 1954, he pioneered the first evening news broadcast as "anchorman" of the *CBS Evening News*. For the next three decades, he covered such history-making events as the U.S. space program; the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert Kennedy; the Watergate scandal; the hostage crisis in Iran; and the Vietnam War. In January, 1981, President Carter awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest award to a civilian.

**WALTER ELIAS DISNEY** (1901-1966) was a film and animation pioneer and innovator whose achievements sparked the imagination of people throughout the world. His accomplishments included producing the first feature-length animated picture, **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** (1937), and creating the family theme park, Disneyland. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Walt moved to a farm outside Marceline, Missouri, with his family in 1906. In 1910, the family moved again to Kansas City. After service as a World War I ambulance driver, Walt returned to Kansas City and opened his first animation studio.

**JOYCE C. HALL** (1891-1982) was the founder of Hallmark Cards, Inc. Born in David City, Nebraska, Hall came to Kansas City, Missouri, at the age of 18 and turned a mail-order postcard business into the world's largest personal expression company. During the 56 years he led Hallmark, Hall initiated many new and important market strategies such as functional inventory, automatic reorder, and display control systems, which gave the company an automatic index of public taste. He also introduced self-service for greeting cards with his open display racks. Two highlights of his career are the creation of the Hallmark Hall of Fame, a series of television specials, and the development of the 85-acre Crown Center complex of shops, theaters, hotels and office space surrounding Hallmark's world headquarters in Kansas City.

**EDWIN POWELL HUBBLE** (1889-1953) Hubble was born in Marshfield, Missouri. He became the outstanding leader in the observational approach to cosmology. Hubble revolutionized our knowledge of the size, structure, and properties of the universe. In 1990, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched the Hubble Telescope into orbit for the first time. NASA named the first space-based telescope after Edwin P. Hubble for his invaluable contributions in the field of astronomical sciences, especially for what is now known as Hubble's Law.

**EWING MARION KAUFFMAN** (1916-1993) owner of the Kansas City Royals baseball team was known for his philanthropy. The Kauffman Foundation champions youth development and entrepreneurial leadership.



**EMMETT KELLY** (1898-1979) created the world-famous hobo clown character, "Weary Willie". Emmett moved with his family to a farm four miles east of Houston, Missouri, when he was six years old and at the age of 19, he moved to Kansas City. After a series of jobs, he became a trapeze artist and clown for Howe's Great London Circus. In the early 1930s, he created his immortal clown character known for ragged clothes, a mournful demeanor, and melancholy pantomime. In 1942, he became a member of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. His circus fame led to appearances in films, nightclubs, television, and the Broadway stage. He retired from Ringling Brothers in 1956.

On the same day that Ringling Brothers opened in New York, March 28, 1979, Emmett Kelly died in Sarasota, Florida.

**SCOTT JOPLIN** (1868-1917) became known as “The King of Ragtime” because of his significant contributions to this unique form of music as a composer and pianist. Born in Texarkana, Texas, he spent the major portion of his life in St. Louis and Sedalia. His musical composition “Maple Leaf Rag,” named for a popular Sedalia nightclub, was the first piece of American sheet music to sell one million copies. His celebrated ragtime piece “The Entertainer” won an Academy Award in 1974 as the theme music for the film “The Sting.” In 1976, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music.

**STAN MUSIAL** (1920 - ) St. Louis Cardinal baseball great Stan “The Man” Musial, who was designated as the 23rd member of the Hall of Famous Missourians, certainly made his mark on Missouri, and the world. Musial was chosen for this honor not only for his athletic accomplishments on the field, but for the generosity of spirit he displayed off the field toward people whose lives he touched. Musial is the first sports figure and only the second living member of the Hall of Famous Missourians.

**REINHOLD NIEBUHR** (1892-1971) was a pastor, teacher, author, political activist and regarded as the leading American religious thinker of his time. His best known contribution to popular culture is the prayer he wrote about serenity, courage, and wisdom in relation to what can and cannot be changed. In recognition of his contribution to American life, Reinhold Niebuhr was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964.

**CHARLIE “Bird” or “Yardbird” PARKER** (1920-1955) was a gifted jazz saxophonist and composer who advanced the art of improvisation and rhythm and founded the bebop jazz movement. Born in Kansas City, Kansas, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, at the age of eight. Greatly influenced by the Kansas City jazz scene, he eventually began to play with a variety of local jazz and blues groups and finally moved to New York where his musical reputation grew. Two of his most famous musical compositions are “Yardbird Suite” and “Now’s the Time.” His last public appearance was March 5, 1955, only seven days before his death, at the New York nightclub, Birdland, which was named in his honor.

**JAMES CASH PENNEY** (1875-1971) was the founder of the J.C. Penney Company department stores. Born on a small farm outside of Hamilton, Missouri, he grew up believing in God, self-reliance, self-discipline, honor, and the Christian ethic of The Golden Rule. By combining those high ethical principles with sound economic practices and concern for his customers, he built one small store into a vast retail empire.

**GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING** (1860-1948) commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in Europe during WWI. Born near Laclede, Missouri, he became a master of military tactics at the United States Military Academy and West Point. Organizing, training, and leading all American land forces in the AEF marked Pershing as one of history’s great military leaders. Four years after WWI began, he started with almost nothing and within 18 months time, established an army of two million soldiers who brought the conflict to an end in 200 days. He is the only American to be named General of the Armies in his lifetime by a special act of Congress, one rank above the five-star generals of WWII.

**SACAJAWEA** (1788-1812) a Shoshone Indian, was the only woman to accompany the expedition by Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark into Missouri and other territories of the Louisiana Purchase. She acted as an interpreter for this first U.S. exploration of a route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean and made many valuable contributions to the success of the mission.

**HARRY S TRUMAN** (1884-1972) is one of the most highly regarded U.S. Presidents of our time and one of the most respected statesmen in American history. Born in Lamar, Missouri, he became our 33rd president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945. As chief executive, he led the nation through the end of World War II and guided our country through the Korean Conflict. He was also responsible for a major turning point in American foreign policy which bears his name—the Truman Doctrine. He is buried in his beloved town of Independence.

**MARK TWAIN** (Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835-1910) is America's greatest humorist and one of its greatest writers. Popularly known for two novels of boyhood life in his home town, Hannibal, Missouri, "Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer," published in the mid-nineteenth century, Twain brought a robust energy to American literature. His genius is attributed to an utter clarity of style, a supreme command of vernacular American English, and an ability to liberate American humor and raise it to the level of high art.

**LAURA INGALLS WILDER** (1867-1957) used her childhood and adolescent experiences on the American frontier to write autobiographical novels beloved by children and adults alike. At Rocky Ridge Farm, her family home in the Missouri Ozarks near Mansfield, she wrote the "Little House" books such as *Little House in the Big Woods* and *Little House on the Prairie*. Her work has remained continuously in print since the books first appeared in the 1930s and was the subject of a very successful television series.

# History of Missouri

Missouri gets its name from a tribe of Sioux Indians of the state called the Missouris. The word “Missouri” often has been construed to mean “muddy water” but the Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology has stated it means “town of the large canoes” and authorities have said the Indian syllables from which the word comes mean “wooden canoe people” or “he of the big canoe”.

Missouri has been nicknamed several times, but the “Show Me State” probably is the one used most. The saying gained favor in the 1890s although

**Who is credited with uttering the phrase that became Missouri’s “Show Me” slogan?**

its origin is unknown. Whatever its origin, much of the credit for popularizing the expression goes to Congressman Willard D. Vandiver of Cape Girardeau County. During an 1899 speech in Philadelphia, the noted orator used the phrase, “I’m from Missouri; you’ve got to show me.” The expression soon caught the public fancy, portraying Missourians as tough-minded demanders of proof.

The first Europeans to visit Missouri may have been remnants of the Conquistadores, but probably were French explorers from Canada. Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, who descended the Mississippi from the North in 1673, supplied the first written accounts of exploration in Missouri. In 1682, the area was claimed for France by Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle.

As part of the Louisiana Purchase Territory, Missouri has belonged to three nations. France ceded the area to Spain in 1762. Although Spain held it for forty years, its influence was slight. The early culture of the region was determined mostly by the French.

It was the French who were responsible for the first permanent settlement of Ste. Genevieve in the mid-1730s. Numerous buildings from the 1700s still stand in the historic Mississippi River town. Ste. Genevieve stood alone in the huge upper Louisiana Territory until the establishment of St. Louis as a fur trading post in 1764. Because of its location at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, St. Louis outstripped other settlements and today is one of the nation’s major cities.

By secret treaty in 1802, Spain returned the Louisiana Territory to the control of France. Napoleon Bonaparte, anxious to rid himself of the vast and troublesome frontier, sold it to the United States in 1803 for a total of \$15 million.

About this time President Jefferson organized the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which was the first extensive exploration of the northwestern part of the new territory. The explorers left the St. Louis/St. Charles area in 1804. Their Missouri River route includes several sites still of interest to today's explorers. One is Fort Osage, just east of Kansas City—a reconstruction on the site of William Clark's original 1808 fort.

Missouri was organized as a territory in 1812 and was admitted to the Union as the 24th state on August 10, 1821. Missouri Governor Alexander McNair was at the Capitol (which still stands) in St. Charles, when he heard that the territory had become a state. Missouri became the second state (after Louisiana) of the Louisiana Purchase to be admitted to the Union.

In 1820, the Missouri Compromise was passed, whereby Missouri was to be admitted as a slave state and Maine as a free state. Although admitted as a slave state, Missouri remained with the Union during the Civil War.

The most important battle fought in Missouri was the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield. Although the battle lasted only a little more than four hours, it was one of the bloodiest of the war. Today, the site is a National Battlefield, preserved by the National Park Service.

Other important battles in Missouri were fought at Carthage, Lexington, Westport and Boonville. Missouri was the scene of 11 percent of the total engagements in the war.

Before and after the Civil War, Missouri was literally the crossroads of the nation—a jumping-off point for settlers heading westward. Some settlers, of course, chose to stay in Missouri. From the lead mining region of southeast Missouri to the German settlements along the Missouri River, a flood of immigrants made their home on the Missouri frontier.

**What percentage of  
Civil War battles  
took place on  
Missouri soil?**

As the frontier moved farther west, pioneers passed through Arrow Rock, Independence, Kansas City and other towns. St. Joseph assured its niche in frontier history when the Pony Express began there in 1860; the old Pony Express Stable is now a museum.

As the 1800s gave way to the 1900s, Missouri's history became more and more entwined with international events. During World War I, Missouri provided 140,257 soldiers, one-third being volunteers. Notable leaders, such as General John J. Pershing of Laclede, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, came from Missouri.

In World War II, Missouri contributed more than 450,000 men and women to the various armed forces. Eighty-nine top officers were from Missouri including General Omar N. Bradley and Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle.

The nation's leader during the last year of the war was Lamar-born Harry S Truman. After assuming office, upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945, President Truman was elected to a full four-year term. His was the fateful decision to use the atom bomb and hasten the Japanese surrender consummated on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

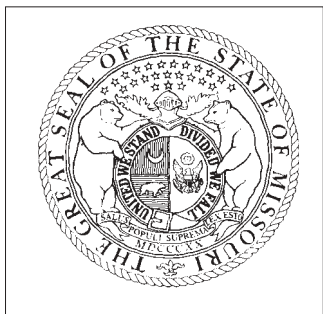
World War II added an unusual page to Missouri's history as well. When Sir Winston Churchill came to Missouri in 1946 to speak at Fulton's Westminster College, his speech entered the term "iron curtain" into the world's lexicon. The centuries-old church of St. Mary Aldermanbury was brought from London and now stands in Fulton as a memorial to Churchill.

In recent years, Missouri's history has moved rapidly into the space age, with Missouri companies providing vital components for exploration of this new frontier. From the rock carvings of ancient Missourians to the mysterious depths of space, Missouri's history is a diverse—but unbroken—chain.

# Official State Emblems

**State Motto** • Missouri's motto, "Salus populi suprema lex esto," translated from the Latin, becomes "let the good (or welfare) of the people be the supreme law". It is derived from Cicero's "De Legibus".

**State Flag** • The Forty-seventh General Assembly of Missouri passed the act adopting an official state flag for Missouri in 1913. The flag consists of three large horizontal stripes of red, white and blue, and was thought to represent characteristics of Missouri and Missourians. The blue stripe represented vigilance, permanency and justice. The red stripe represented valor, and the white symbolized purity. The Missouri coat-of-arms appeared in the center of the flag, signifying Missouri's independence as a state, but, nevertheless, its place as a part of the whole United States. Twenty-four stars surrounded the coat-of-arms, denoting Missouri's position as the twenty-fourth state.



**State Seal** • The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the General Assembly on January 11, 1822. The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government. On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and silver crescent moon, a symbol in

heraldry meaning the "second son" to denote that Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzly bears on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto. Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state.

The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signified Missouri's status as the twenty-fourth state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri". The Great Seal is officially kept by the Secretary of State and is impressed on official documents signed by the Governor.



**State Song** • The “Missouri Waltz” became the state song on June 30, 1949. First published in 1914, the song did not sell well and was considered a failure. By 1939, the song had gained some popularity and six million copies had been sold. Sales were increased substantially after Missourian Harry S Truman became president, and it was reported that the “Missouri Waltz” was his favorite song.

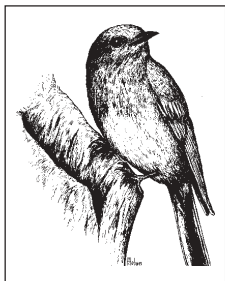
**State Flower** • In 1923 the blossom of the hawthorn “crataegus” became the official floral emblem. The hawthorn is a member of the great rose family, closely resembling the apple group. Its clusters of white blossoms, with much of the appearance of apple blossoms, burst forth in profusion in April and May.

**State Tree** • The flowering dogwood became Missouri’s official state tree in 1955. The dogwood, in full flower in rocky open woods, bluffs and thickets, draws many travelers to the Ozarks in the spring of each year. The approximate blooming date for dogwood is May 1.



**State Insect** • The native “honey bee,” scientifically designated as *apis mellifera*, was designated the official state insect in 1985. At that time it was noted that the production of honey and beeswax was a \$5 million a year business in Missouri and that honey bees annually pollinate more than \$6 billion worth of crops in the state.

**State Musical Instrument** • The fiddle became the state’s official musical instrument in 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many communities and held a position of great respect in the region.



**State Fossil** • The crinoid became the state’s official fossil in 1989, following a four-year effort by a group of Lee’s Summit school students. The crinoid is a mineralization of an animal with a plant-like appearance. Related to the starfish, the crinoid lived in the ocean which covered Missouri over 250 million years ago.

**State Bird** • The bluebird is a native of Missouri and was made the official bird of the state in 1927.

**State Rock** • Designated the official rock in 1967, mozarkite is avidly sought by collectors from all over the nation. It is a variety of chert, or the commonly known flintrock. Apparently unique to Missouri, it is plentiful in the Ozarks, particularly in Benton County. Mozarkite is found in a variety of colors, primarily in red, purple, green and reddish brown.

**State Mineral** • Galena, a naturally occurring lead sulphide and the chief ore-bearing mineral of lead, was designated the official mineral in 1967. Dark gray or silver in color, Galena, in its natural state, fractures or cleaves into cubes. Missouri now supplies about 85 percent of all the lead produced in the United States.

**State Tree Nut** • In 1990, the Eastern Black Walnut became Missouri's official state tree nut.



**State Dance** • The square dance became the official state American folk dance in 1995.

**State Animal** • The mule became the official state animal in 1995. Missouri breeders are credited with developing the large intelligent draft mule that efficiently pulled wagons west to the great frontier in the mid-1800's. By the turn of the century, Missouri was a major mule-producing center, supplying domestic and foreign markets. The firm of Guyton and Harrington, headquartered in Lathrop, won an exclusive contract with the British Army to provide over 350,000 Missouri mules and horses for service in WWI.

**State Aquatic Animal** • The paddlefish officially became Missouri's aquatic animal in 1997.

Paddlefish commonly exceed five feet in length and can weigh 60 pounds. Some live 30 years or more.

**State Fish** • In 1997, the channel catfish was designated Missouri's state fish. The catfish, which can grow to 32 inches in length and weigh up to 15 pounds, uses its catlike whiskers to assist in the hunt for food.

**State Horse** • In 2002, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse was named the official state horse.

**State Grass** • In 2004, the Big Bluestem became the official state grass.

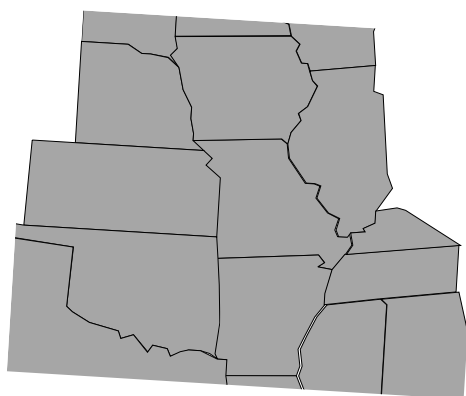
**State Dinosaur** • In 2004, the *Hypsibema Missouriensis* was named the official state dinosaur after fossils of the animal were found in Bollinger County near Missouri's bootheel.

# Selected Statistics

The following statistics are by no means comprehensive. Representative statements are made to briefly highlight a number of interesting areas. Some resources for further information are listed at the back of this publication.

Missouri is the mid-way point between east and west. It's a pleasant mixture of urban culture and rural simplicity—the cultural strengths of the major metro areas and the simplicity of the rural countryside—both complemented by Missouri's people and their tradition of hospitality.

One of two states in the nation touched by eight states, Missouri is **bordered by Iowa** on the north; **Arkansas** on the south; **Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee** on the east; and **Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma** on the west.



**How many states  
border Missouri?**

Missouri ranks **19th in size** with a total area of 69,674 square miles. It is the second largest state bordering the Mississippi River (after Minnesota) and is larger than any state east of the Mississippi.

Missouri contains **four major geographic areas**, all of which are modified to some extent by subordinate physiographic features. These four areas are the Glaciated Plains (north), the Western Plains, the Ozarks (south) and the Southeastern Lowlands. The highest point in the state is 1,772 feet above sea level at Taum Sauk Mountain in Iron County in the Ste. Francois Mountain area. The lowest point is 230 feet above sea level at the extreme south end of the Lowlands.

The oldest visible things in Missouri are the igneous rocks (granite and porphyries) that appear in the southeastern part of the state. Granites, other igneous rocks and older metamorphic rocks have been found, by drilling, to underlie all parts of the state. A wide variety of rock is found throughout the state including limestone, sandstone and shale. A beautiful red granite is quarried for building and monumental stone at Graniteville and white Carthage marble is famous throughout the nation.

Missouri's **climate** generally may be described as humid continental with long summers and variable conditions. There are periods of constantly changing weather and periods of settled and stable weather.

Average daily temperature in January varies from 25 degrees in the northwest to 34 degrees in the bootheel (degrees given in Fahrenheit). Winters are seldom severe and may feature short spells of unusual warmth. Average summer temperatures range around 78 degrees, but may drop to 66 degrees just before sunrise.

The average annual precipitation ranges from slightly above 50 inches in the southeast to 32 in the extreme northwest. About 42 percent of the annual rainfall occurs during the crop-growing months, May to August.

**Economically**, Missouri is a **well-diversified** state. Wholesale and retail trade, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and service enterprises are among Missouri's largest industries.

In **agriculture**, Missouri is the second leading state in beef cows, third in hay production, sixth in rice production, ninth in corn production, tenth in cotton production, and seventeenth in production of milk. With its great variety of mineral resources, Missouri is one of the leading mineral producers of the Midwest.

Missouri's water resources include **large lakes, farm ponds, mighty rivers, Ozark streams and springs**. In all, the Missouri Department of Conservation reports there are 902,000 acres of water in Missouri. Our 50,000 miles of rivers and streams account for nearly half of this total water area. There are more than 1,100 known springs, including the nation's largest single-outlet spring, Big Spring, near Van Buren.

About **14 million acres** of Missouri is **forested**—nearly twice the forested land of its neighboring states of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska combined. More than two million acres are in public ownership.

**What are the four major  
geographical areas of  
Missouri?**



The final count of the 2000 census showed Missouri's **population** at 5,595,211. This is an increase of 9.3% over the Missourians counted in 1990. Based on this most recent count, Missouri is the 16th most populated state in the nation. The largest cities in Missouri are Kansas City with a population of 441,545 and St. Louis with 348,189. Population in other Missouri cities are as follows: Springfield, 151,580; Independence, 113,288; Columbia, 84,531; St. Joseph, 73,990; Lee's Summit, 70,700; St. Charles, 60,321; St. Peters, 51,381; Florissant, 50,497; Blue Springs, 48,080; Chesterfield, 46,802; O'Fallon, 46,169; Joplin, 45,504; Jefferson City, 39,636; University City, 37,428; and Cape Girardeau, 35,349.

Population figures are from the 2000 Official U.S. Census as provided by House Research.

# Answers to Quiz Boxes

(answer preceded by page number)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5- legislative, executive and judicial;   | 18- referendum (legislative) and initiative (grass roots);   |
| 6- January, 4 1/2 months;   | 19- the vote;  |
| 7- public hearings;   | 22- five, three;   |
| 12- governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and attorney general; | 29- Congressman Willard D. Vandiver, Cape Girardeau County in 1899;  |
| 13- circuit court, court of appeals and Supreme Court;  | 30- 11%;   |
| 14- Supreme Court;  | 35- 8 states;  |
| 15- 114;  | 36- glaciated plains (northern), western plains, the Ozarks (southern Missouri) and southeastern lowlands. |
| 16- ordinances;   |  |
| 17- 11 (9 representatives and 2 senators);  |  |

## Resources

This publication is made available to you by the Missouri House of Representatives. It is intended to be an introduction to our state which we hope will stimulate further interest and study. The following agencies may provide you with more specific information:

### ***General information regarding the state legislature***

House Communications

House P.O., State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806

Telephone - (573) 751-4043 or [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)

### ***Travel planning***

Division of Tourism, P.O. Box 1055, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Telephone - (573) 751-4133

### ***Commerce, Industry, etc.***

Department of Economic Development, Economic Development Programs

P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Telephone - (573) 751-4962

### ***Agriculture***

Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Telephone - (573) 751-4645

### ***State parks/State historic sites***

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Telephone - (573) 751-3443 or 1-800-334-6946 or <http://www.dnr.mo.gov>

# Surfs Up!



Jump Aboard & Learn  
About State Government  
On the Internet

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Catch the wave in the latest in technology as you surf the Missouri General Assembly's home page on the Internet. Access to: introduced bills; names, address and phone numbers of lawmakers; state statutes; and general information about the legislature is available 24 hours a day at this interesting and easy-to-use site.

All you need is a computer, modem, and access to the Internet and you can have a library of information at your fingertips. To surf the Missouri House of Representatives' home page, use the following Internet address:

**<http://www.house.mo.gov>**

## The Speaker's QUIZ BOX TEST

"Nothing would please me more than for *every* Missouri student to be capable of answering 100% of the questions in the quiz boxes correctly. You learned your address in kindergarten--now you should *really know* where you live!"

Throughout the pages of this Missouri House of Representatives' Student Publication, boxes appear with questions pertaining to the material covered in the text.

Test your Missouri IQ!

Answers on page 38.

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